



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

California/Nevada Operations Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2610
Sacramento, California 95825



SEP 12 2005

To Interested Parties:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are encouraging prospective applicants to submit proposals for the fiscal year 2006 Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) (also known as the CVPIA (b)(1) "other" Program). **The objective of the CVPCP and HRP is to improve conditions for species and habitats impacted by the CVP.** Prospective applicants are Federal and State government agencies, private non-profit or profit organizations, and individuals. This letter serves to inform potential project applicants of three important topics concerning our proposal solicitation for fiscal year 2006: (1) fiscal year 2006 priorities, (2) distribution of CVPCP and HRP funds and (3) proposal submission guidelines.

Fiscal Year 2006 Priorities

The CVPCP and HRP have established priorities related to species, habitats, and geographic areas. **Well-conceived proposals that address the priorities listed below will be given preference during proposal review.** These priorities have been developed specifically for fiscal year 2006. They reflect the most current evaluation of species needs and habitat trends and are complementary to other on-going actions within the Central Valley. They also take into account historical levels of investment as well as future threats to specific ecosystems. The following are CVPCP and HRP priorities for fiscal year 2006 and they are listed in the order of preference:

- 1) Serpentine soil and associated habitats supporting endemic species, such as the bay checkerspot butterfly and serpentine plants, in Santa Clara County. For this habitat and geographic priority, the CVPCP and HRP are particularly interested in proposals that emphasize (a) preservation of existing habitat and protection from incompatible land uses; (b) restoration of degraded habitat by reintroduction of grazing, protection from overgrazing, etc.; (c) public outreach at parks and open space areas; (d) outreach to landowners with serpentine habitat regarding pesticide use, grazing, and conservation easements; (e) development of propagation techniques for listed plants and host and nectar plants of bay checkerspot butterfly; and (f) implementation of priority one and two tasks for serpentine species found in the *Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area* (USFWS 1998a)¹.

¹ Indicates a Recovery Plan that is available on-line at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html>

- 2) Grassland, alkali sink, and alkali scrub habitat located in the Central Valley that are core and satellite population areas and habitat linkages and corridors for San Joaquin kit fox², and areas supporting blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, giant kangaroo rat, Fresno kangaroo rat, Buena Vista Lake shrew, federally listed plant species, and other species dependent upon this habitat complex. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks for upland species of the San Joaquin Valley found in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998b)¹.
- 3) Vernal pool habitats throughout the Central Valley supporting federally listed vernal pool invertebrates, California tiger salamander, and listed plant species including slender Orcutt grass, Greene's tuctoria, Colusa grass, Hoover's spurge, and fleshy-owl's clover. High priority actions include, but are not limited to, (a) protection, through fee title or easement acquisition, of existing vernal pool complexes supporting listed species; (b) research on vernal pool habitats, including response of listed species to various land uses, as well as contaminants; and (c) development of vernal pool management plans based on peer reviewed research findings. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks for vernal pool species found in the *Draft Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2004)¹.
- 4) Gabbro soils chaparral habitat in El Dorado County, supporting federally listed plant species. High priority tasks include (a) surveys to establish baseline conditions on protected lands within the Pine Hill Preserve (Preserve); (b) focused surveys on lands adjacent to, but outside of the boundaries of, the Preserve to determine whether these lands may be suitable for inclusion within the Preserve; (c) monitoring the response of each of the listed plants to different land treatments within the Preserve; and (d) implementation of other priority one and two tasks for Gabbro soils chaparral habitat species found in the *Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills* (USFWS 2002c)¹.
- 5) Habitat protection and management activities in eastern Contra Costa County that will help conserve listed species located there. Priority will be given to conservation actions for (a) grassland habitats used by San Joaquin kit fox that provide regional linkage between Contra Costa County and areas outside the County; (b) chaparral/grassland/oak savannah matrix important for Alameda whipsnake feeding, breeding, dispersal, and movement; (c) grassland habitat that provides breeding, dispersal, and colonization opportunities for California tiger salamander; (d) aquatic breeding and upland movement/aestivation habitat for California red-legged frog; and (e) vernal pool habitat that supports listed crustaceans. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks for Contra Costa County species found in the following recovery plans: *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS

¹Indicates a Recovery Plan that is available on-line at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html>

² Indicates maps depicting San Joaquin kit fox satellite populations, linkages, and corridors can be obtained by hard copy by contacting Caroline Prose of the Service at (916) 414-6575.

1998b)¹, *Draft Recovery Plan for Chaparral and Scrub Community Species East of San Francisco Bay, California* (USFWS 2002d)¹, *Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii)* (USFWS 2002a)¹, and *Draft Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2004)¹.

- 6) Riparian, aquatic and associated upland habitat mosaic (including oak woodlands) supporting species such as giant garter snake, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, riparian brush rabbit, riparian woodrat, California red-legged frog, and neotropical migratory birds, with a special emphasis on the southern Central Valley. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one tasks for riparian upland mosaic species found in the following recovery plans: *Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 1999)¹; *Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Recovery Plan* (USFWS 1984)³; *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998b)¹; *Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii)* (USFWS 2002a)¹; *Final Recovery Plan, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus)* (USFWS 2002b)¹; and *Draft Recovery Plan for the Least Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus)* (USFWS 1998c)³.

Distribution of CVPCP and HRP Funds

The CVPCP and HRP fund a variety of actions that improve conditions for species and habitats impacted by the CVP, recognizing that a balanced set of actions is needed to meet the stated objectives. The CVPCP and HRP have, however, placed emphasis on certain kinds of activities considered more critical to species' protection and recovery than others. Funds are generally distributed as indicated below for the following activities:

(1) Fee Title/Easement Acquisition and Habitat Restoration: Protection of species or existing habitats impacted by the CVP through the purchase of fee title or conservation easements on lands where threats to these lands are significant; restoration of CVP-impacted habitats where restoration actions will markedly improve conditions for impacted species. **Approximately 70 percent of CVPCP and HRP funds are directed towards this proposed activity.**

(2) Studies/Surveys: Research addressing status, habitat needs, and behavior of CVP-impacted species that will facilitate species recovery. Special consideration will be given to studies that may have a direct impact on raising species baseline, such as development of propagation techniques for listed plants, or conducting research applicable to species reintroduction. Proposal applicants should keep in mind that all research projects will be subject to independent scientific peer review. **Approximately 20 percent of CVPCP and HRP funds are directed towards this proposed activity.**

(3) Outreach/Planning/Other: Public outreach and education, formulation of land management plans, and other activities that generally contribute to improving conditions for CVP-impacted

¹Indicates a Recovery Plan that is available on-line at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html>

³Indicates a Recovery Plan that is not available on-line but can be obtained by hard copy by contacting Caroline Prose of the Service at (916) 414-6575.

species and habitats. **Approximately 10 percent of CVPCP and HRP funds are directed towards this proposed activity.**

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Submitted proposals should emphasize the proposed activity's contribution to improving existing conditions for listed species impacted by the CVP. Accordingly, applicants should define and document existing baseline conditions related to listed species and cite all documented references to species occurrence (i.e., it is important that proposed project areas be surveyed for accurate information regarding the presence of listed species prior to submitting proposals). The proposal should also outline monitoring strategies for determining how the project would help raise or stabilize listed species baseline.

The CVPCP and HRP have established **ranking criteria** used to evaluate and rank submitted proposals. These criteria assist in providing the basis for proposal selection and are discussed in two documents: the Operational Framework Document for the CVPCP (August 2004), and the Project Plan for the HRP (August 2003). Although the criteria are currently being modified, those discussed in these documents still provide the general basis for proposal evaluation. The above documents also provide guidance and examples related to proposal content and format. The documents can be obtained on Reclamation (www.usbr.gov/mp/) and Service (www.fws.gov/pacific/sacramento) websites now posting this solicitation announcement. More information about the CVPCP can also be found at the following website: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/mp150/cvpcp/>. Additionally, prospective applicants may obtain information on our proposal solicitation by accessing the Federal Grant Opportunities website at <http://www.fedgrants.gov/> and selecting "Applicant" then "Search Grants Postings" for the Department of Interior. Our CDFA number is 15.646 under "Active Documents."

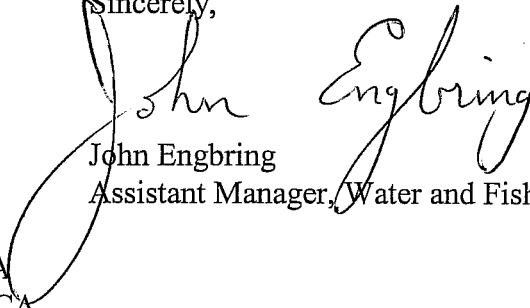
Proposals for both the CVPCP and HRP can be submitted beginning September 15, 2005. The deadline for proposal submission is December 15, 2005.

Send proposals to John Thomson, Project Manager, Central Valley Project Conservation Program, MP-150, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825 or jthomson@mp.usbr.gov. Hard copies of proposals are accepted, however, electronic copies are preferred.

Those who plan on submitting a written proposal(s) are also invited to make an oral presentation to Program Managers and the CVPCP and HRP Technical Team members. **Presentations are currently scheduled for October 18th, October 19th, November 15th, and November 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at the Federal Building on Cottage Way in Sacramento.

If you would like to schedule a presentation, or if you have questions regarding the CVPCP or HRP, please contact John Thomson with Reclamation at (916) 978-5052, or Caroline Prose with the Service at (916) 414-6575.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Engbring". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "J" and "E".

John Engbring
Assistant Manager, Water and Fisheries Resources

cc:

John Thomson, BOR, Sacramento, CA

Myrnie Mayville, BOR, Sacramento, CA

Rhonda Reed, Bay-Delta Authority, Ecosystem Restoration Project, Sacramento, CA

CVPCP Technical Team

Jan Knight, Service, Sacramento, CA

Susan Jones, Service, Sacramento, CA

LITERATURE CITED

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1984. Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Recovery Plan. Portland, Oregon. 62 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998a. Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area. Portland, Oregon. 330+ pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998b. Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California. Portland, Oregon. 319 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998c. Draft Recovery Plan for the Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake. Portland, Oregon. ix+ 192 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002a. Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*). Portland, Oregon. viii + 173 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002b. Final Recovery Plan, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). Albuquerque, New Mexico. i-ix + 210pp. + Appendices A-O.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002c. Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills. Portland, Oregon. xiii + 220 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002d. Draft Recovery Plan for Chaparral and Scrub Community Species East of San Francisco Bay, California. Region 1, Portland, Oregon. xvi + 306 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. 2003. Central Valley Project Improvement Act, section 3406 (b)(1) "other," Habitat Restoration Program. Project Plan. Sacramento, California. 11 pp + Appendices A & B.